

What is claimed:

1. A method for managing access to a service comprising the steps of:
  - (A) delegating, over at least one ad hoc network in a personal area network, one or more permissions relating to the service, to a delegatee by a delegator, wherein the one or more permissions comprise authority to access the service and to delegate one or more further permissions to subsequent delegatees and are represented using a digital signature; and
  - (B) providing access to the service to each permitted delegatee over a second computer network that is different from the personal area network.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - (C) synchronizing first data comprising said one or more permissions on said delegation device with second data on a receiving device.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - (D) delegating one or more of said further permissions to subsequent delegatees via electronic mail.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said second computer network comprises a public network.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein said public network comprises the Internet.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the delegation of permission is performed using a personal digital assistant.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein access to the service is provided to a personal computer over said second computer network.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said service comprises accessing content.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said service comprises actuating a device.

12. A system for managing access to a service comprising:

a delegation device that delegates, over at least one ad hoc network in a personal area network, one or more permissions relating to the service, to a delegatee by a delegator, wherein the one or more permissions comprise authority to access the service and to delegate one or more further permissions to subsequent delegates and are represented using a digital signature; and

one or more servers that provide access to the service to each permitted delegatee over a second computer network that is different from the personal area network.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein one or more of said further permissions to subsequent delegates are delegated via electronic mail.

14. The system of claim 12 further comprising a computer that synchronizes first data comprising said one or more permissions on said delegation device with second data on said computer.

15. The system of claim 12 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.

17. The system of claim 12 wherein said second computer network comprises a public network.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said public network comprises the Internet.
19. The system of claim 12 wherein the delegation device is a personal digital assistant.
20. The system of claim 12 wherein the service is provided to a personal computer over said second computer network.
21. The system of claim 12 wherein the service comprises accessing content.
22. The system of claim 12 wherein the service comprises actuating a device.